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## 'Robber' killed in 'gunfight' with cops

STAR REPORT

A suspected robber was killed in a "gunfight" between detectives and his cohorts in Comilla early yesterday.

The dead is Abdul Quader, 35, of Bharanikhanda village under Monoharganj upazila of the district.

Inspector Sadeque of Monoharganj Police Station said the "gunfight" victim was accused in several cases filed with the police station.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police in Comilla said they nabbed eight of Quader's aides and recovered firearms from their possession while the criminals were trying to flee.

With Quader, at least 24 people were killed in such "gunfights" or "shootouts" between July 1 and August 22, according to reports published in this newspaper.

Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra said 72 people lost their lives in "crossfire" between law enforcers and alleged criminals in the first six months of this year.

Sub-inspector Shah Kamal Akand of Comilla DB claimed that a team of detectives were returning to Comilla city following a

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A man with a child tries to slip through the lowered iron bars to go on the other side defying the warning that a train is approaching, a carelessness that could cost both of their lives. The photo was taken at Ashkona level crossing in the capital on Wednesday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## OIC secretary general arrives in Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

OIC Secretary General Iyad Ameen Madani arrived here yesterday afternoon on a three-day official visit, as part of his tour to four member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

He is leading a six-member delegation on his second tour to Bangladesh, according to foreign ministry sources.

Madani will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this morning and meet Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali in the afternoon.

He is expected to visit International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr).

During the tour, he will brief the Bangladesh leaders on the programmes, initiatives, and cooperation

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## RAJUK REELING FROM CRISES

# No crime impossible

Internal probe points at culture of impunity

TAWFIQUE ALI

For many Rajuk officials, committing almost any type of corruption is possible -- be it forging signatures and documents, removing or damaging files and altering the identities of genuine leaseholders of plots.

Officials get involved in corruption since they go scot-free. This has put the city development regulator in a grave crisis, according to an internal probe.

"Those who commit offences like

removing original documents from files, forging signatures and altering photographs of original leaseholders of plots are not brought to book in any way," said the probe report.

Though Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha is a service-oriented organisation, it suffers from image crisis as no wrongdoer gets punished, it added.

A three-member probe committee, led by Rajuk board member Sheikh Md Shamim Iqbal, submitted the report to

the Rajuk chairman on August 3, nearly 10 months after it was formed to probe an alleged signature forgery.

It found that Rajuk Authorised Officer Md Mizanur Rahman forged signatures of two top officials and illegally got approved the plan of a 19-storey building on Kemal Ataturk Avenue (plot-35, 37) in the city.

The probe body also held another Authorised Officer Sukomol Chakma responsible for abetting the crime.

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## Google could 'rig' 2016 US polls'

Researcher points out secret algorithm of the search giant as possible threat

CNN ONLINE

By manipulating its search results, Google could decide the next US presidential election.

The world's most-used search engine is so powerful and national elections are so tight, that even a tiny tweak in Google's (GOOGL, Tech30) secret algorithm could swing the 2016 election, according to Robert



Epstein, senior research psychologist at the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology.

In an op-ed on Politico.com, Epstein said he and a team of researchers studied behaviour in undecided voters who had been exposed to rigged search results. By displaying results that shone a more favourable

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## Truly an all-party leader!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KUSHITIA

AZM Samrat has never been in an identity crisis. He rather has too many identities.



Samrat

The 32-year-old man from Kushtia has been on the police list of criminals for years. Since 2006, he has been the president of pro-BNP student body

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## Sweet-sour & money-spinner

QUARMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Cultivation of the mouth-watering lotkon is proving to be a money-spinner in Panchagarh district as farmers have successfully managed to increase its production over the last few years.

As demand for the yellow, oval-shaped fruit with an appealing savoury flavour rises, the crop is gaining popularity among local farmers both as an intercrop in areca nut plantations and also in household gardens where it grows naturally with a little extra care.

Farming of lotkon, also known as Baccaurea

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Clusters of lotkons hanging from a profusely yielding tree at Panimaspuvuri village in Panchagarh Sadar upazila. Lotkon cultivation in the district has seen a spike, thanks to a rising demand and good price. A farmer, bottom, is tending a lotkon tree.



PHOTO: STAR

## Section 57 to be scrutinised

Says law minister

UNB, Dhaka

Law Minister Anisul Haq yesterday said section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act would be scrutinised to see if the questions arising over it are logical.

He said, "We'll think about reconsidering it, if necessary."

He also said a new law would be enacted to prevent cyber crimes in the country.

"There'll be a new law soon to deal with cyber crimes," the minister said while talking to reporters after inaugurating a boat race programme in the

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## ISIS 'deputy' killed in air strike: US

AFP, Washington

The second-in-command of the Islamic State jihadist group has been killed in a US air strike in northern Iraq, the White House said Friday.

The National Security Council identified the slain militant as Fadhil Ahmad al-Hayali, also known as Haji Mutaz, and said he was ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's senior deputy.

This is not the first time that US officials have announced Hayali's death.

In December, US defense officials, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said he was one of several senior figures killed in coalition strikes, giving another of his pseudonyms, Abu Muslim al-Turkmani.

But US forces now say they were able to kill him, along with an ISIS "media operative" known as Abu Abdullah, on August 18 in a strike on a vehicle near the city of Mosul.

The White House described Hayali as a member of the Islamic State's ruling council, and "a primary coordinator for moving large amounts of weapons, explosives, vehicles and people between Iraq and Syria".

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## Boy tortured to death in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

In yet another shocking incident, a minor boy has been brutally tortured to death at Ghopal in Sadar upazila.

The deceased was M Akmal Hossain, 11, son of Ekhlas Miah, a resident of

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## PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 23

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00  
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Dolphin spied for Israel!

SKYNEWS.COM.AU

Hamas has captured a dolphin that it believes was working for Israeli spy agency Mossad, it has been claimed.

According to reports, the dolphin was captured several weeks ago and was said to have been equipped with "spying equipment" including cameras.

A Hamas source's claims were publicised by Israel's Army Radio which made it clear that while Israel

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